



# Radar Picket Ships

## YAGRGRAM #43

Winter 2006

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### Washington, DC

#### YAGR'S 12<sup>th</sup> Reunion

The official reunion dates are May 31, June 1 and June 2, 2007. Also to afford everyone an opportunity to see more of the area, we have set up pre-reunion tours on Tuesday, May 29 and Wednesday May, 30.

The hotel for this year's reunion is:

The Westfields Marriott  
14750 Conference Center Drive  
Chantilly, VA 20151

You may view the hotel on line at:

[marriotthotels.com/iadwf](http://marriotthotels.com/iadwf)

To make your room reservations call

(800) 228-9290 or (703) 818-0300.

The room rate we negotiated is \$95.00 for a single or double room. This rate is good for May 28, 2007 to June 2, 2007, **and for the 3 days after June 2<sup>nd</sup> on a very limited availability.** Tell them you are with the YAGR'S group when making your room reservations to receive the special rate.

The hotel has a free shuttle that runs from the Dulles International Airport (this is the closest airport to the hotel). If you do not know, Washington, DC has two airports, Dulles and Reagan. Reagan is a distance from the Westfields Marriott. If at all possible get your flight into Dulles so that you will not have to pay for transportation from Reagan Airport to the hotel.

The reunion registration cost this year will be \$119.00 per person for those who have paid their dues and \$134.00 per person for those who have not paid their dues. You will notice the registration cost is higher than in the past. We have done everything to keep the cost as low as possible.

The room rate we have is a very good deal for a 4 star hotel. The parking is free and, as I said above, there is a free shuttle to and from Dulles airport.

We spent a lot of time negotiating these costs with the tour companies and the hotels we were looking at, and it was one of the factors in our decision on the hotel and tour company we finally picked. We feel we got the best deal we could considering the area and time of year.

**For those of you who have made your room reservations and are staying for the whole reunion, make sure you are checking out on the 3rd of June and not the 2nd.**

The hotel has had some problems with the reservations. If you call and have a problem making your room reservations, give me a call right away (401) 724-7278. If you do have a problem, ask for the person's full name that you are talking to and also make a note of the time and day/date you called.



**NOTE:** The response for the reunion is running well ahead of our past reunions. We had to add hotel rooms for the 3 dates before the reunion, and the buses for the pre-tours are filling rapidly. What this all means is that if you plan to attend the reunion, don't wait too long before you sign up.

We don't want to turn people away because they did not sign up soon enough.

**June 1, 2007**

**Group Tour 8:45 AM TO 4:45 PM**

Our morning begins with a visit to the newly dedicated National World War II memorial honoring all military veterans of the war.

We continue on with a memorable visit to the nation's outstanding monuments to America's history: the Lincoln Memorial, honoring the man who saved the Union; the Vietnam War Memorial and the Korean War Memorial.

Next we visit Union Station. Following a two year restoration project, this site has indeed been recognized as one of the grandest train stations in the country. The location of spe-

cialty shops, restaurants and boutiques has been incorporated into the total ambience of this magnificent edifice. Time be allowed for **"lunch on your own"** among the myriad of eateries located at this site.

A highlight of this day will be a stop at the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial. Located directly across from the world famous Tidal Basin, the memorial features a park of granite walls, waterfalls and bronze sculptures that depict Roosevelt's presidency from 1933-1945.



## **Pre-Reunion Tours**

**Tuesday, May 29, 2007**

**Plaque Dedication, 9:45 AM - 3:45 PM**

**\$20.00 per person**

We will be dedicating a plaque honoring our ships at the US Navy Memorial in Washington, DC. Lee Doyel (AGR-15) has donated the funds for this plaque.

Buses will pick us up at the hotel for transportation to the ceremony at the U.S. Navy Memorial in Washington. We expect to have some free time in DC after the dedication before the bus trip back to our hotel.

We will be limited to those who wish to attend by the number of bus seats. I have reserved two buses and these could be filled well before the cut off date; so if you want to attend the dedication, make sure you sign up early.

**The cut off date for signing up for both of the Pre-Reunion tours is April 1, 2007.**

**Wednesday, May 30, 2007**

**Annapolis and the Naval Academy, 8:30 AM - 4:15 PM**

**\$65.00 per person**

Annapolis has been called "the most perfect example of a colonial town existing today in America." Surprisingly little has changed since Maryland's capital was laid out in 1695. In fact, Annapolis has the greatest concentration of 18th century architecture to be found anywhere in the United States.

Upon arrival in Annapolis, we will be greeted by a local costumed docent who will guide us through the cobble streets of this historic area, including the interior and exterior of the Maryland State House, the oldest state house in continuous legislative use and the exterior of the many 17th and 18th century buildings and mansions in the area. We continue on to the United States Naval Academy, established in 1845 and covering more than 300 acres on the Severn River.

You will have time on your own for lunch and browsing throughout the waterfront area of the town where the elite of Annapolis dock their yachts and the many shops and boutiques located here.

**You will need a picture ID for this tour.**

**Remember to bring the tickets that were sent to you for the pre-reunion tours.**

**If you do not, you will have to wait and board the last bus to leave the hotel.**



## **Returned Mail**

After each mailing of the YAGRGRAM a number of them are returned by the post office as undeliverable.

If you will be moving or have just recently moved, make sure you get your new address and phone number to me

## **For Your Information**

If you received an information request form along with this YAGRGRAM, **PLEASE RETURN IT!!!**

We are in the process of cutting our mailing list to help keep cost down. If it is not returned, I will assume you no longer wish to receive the YAGRGRAM.

# *Spouses and Guests*

## *Saturday Breakfast and Penny Social/Raffle*

### *This Is My Country*

As always we will have a Saturday morning breakfast for all the spouses/guests who are attending the reunion. We hold this function while the men are at their meeting on Saturday. Along with breakfast we have a raffle and a hat contest. Decorate a hat based on this year's theme "This Is My Country."



We also hold a raffle. We ask you to bring a small gift (hint, bring something you would like to win). We do have some people who are artistic or work in arts and crafts and they bring something that they have made.

The main idea is just to have fun so don't worry whether your hat or gift is the greatest in the world. And as a reminder, there is no cost as it is part of the reunion package.

## **New YAGR'S Web Page.**

**[www.yagrs.org](http://www.yagrs.org)**

As you probably know by now Frank Pulaski (AGR-4) has taken on the duties of web master of our web page and he has completely revamped the former web page. If you have not checked it out yet, do so now. I think you will agree with me, Frank has done a great job.

If you have visited the web page before, take another look, as it is being updated all the time.

Something that has been added that the old web page did not have is a guest book where you can sign in and add your comments. When visiting the web site be sure to check it out and sign in.



## **YAGR'S Dues**

If you have paid your dues and did not receive your membership card and latest crewmen list that is sent with it, let me know.

Dues for June 1, 2006 to May 31, 2007 are now due. When writing your check, make it out to YAGR'S and send it to me (address on page #1). As a reminder, if this is the first time you are paying your dues, they are \$17.00. Otherwise, dues are \$15.00.

We are still trying to locate information, pictures, etc. for possible inclusion in the YAGR'S book we are putting together.

If you have any information you think will be of use, please get it to me.

**At this time we are in the process of proof-reading the book. Once this is done it will be ready to be published.**

# YAGR'S Exhibit

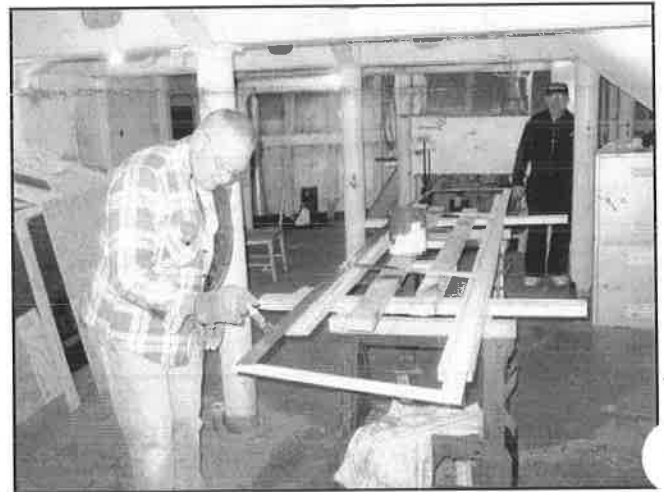
## Battleship Massachusetts

Work has started on the existing peacoat lockers that we are modifying to show various items we have collected. Roland Cole (AGR-10), John Hemminger (AGR-2) and Harry Miller (AGR-11) (YR-65) have been going on the ship each Wednesday to work on this new display.

The first step was to remove the existing covers to enable us to measure and fit the 3 plexiglass panels that will replace the covers. Once this was done, a frame was made to secure and frame each of the 3 panels.

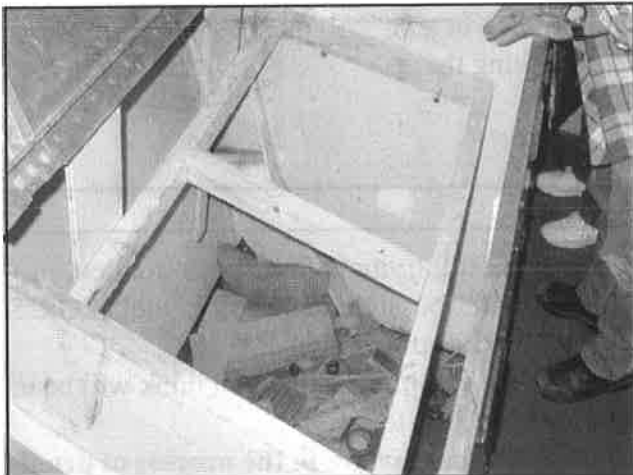


Roland and John removing peacoat locker covers.



John applying a coat of primer on new metal frame.

Now we could concentrate on the interior framing and paneling needed to form the shelves. The existing lockers are built in 3 sections, each section the shape of a parallelogram and each being a different size.



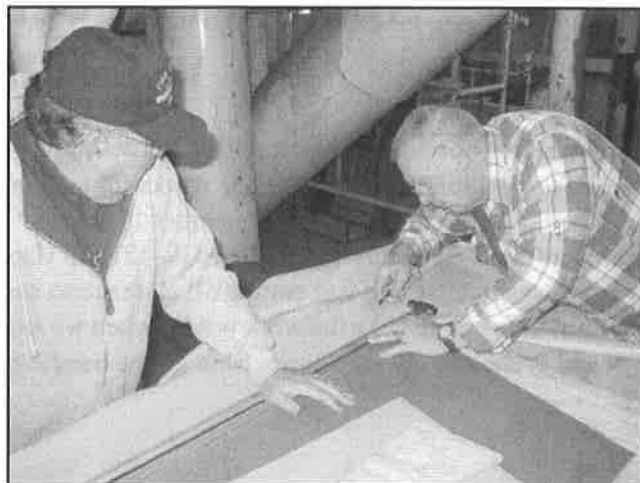
One of the three sections framed in.  
Note: We did clean out the interior of the locker.



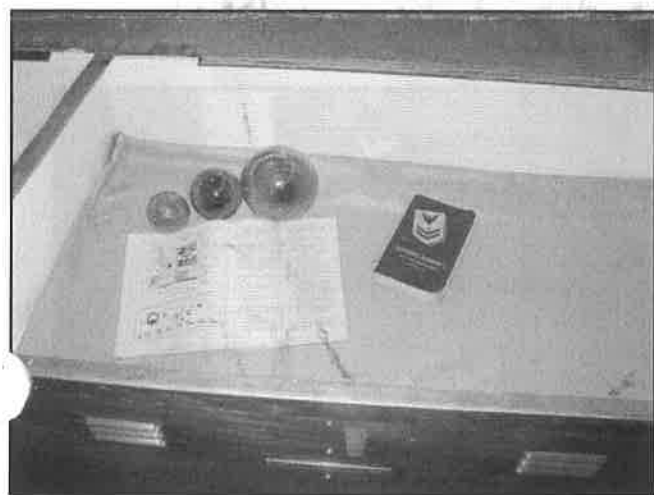
Roland checking the fit of the new shelves and back panel we just installed.



Harry cutting out paper template.



Roland and John cutting felt liner.

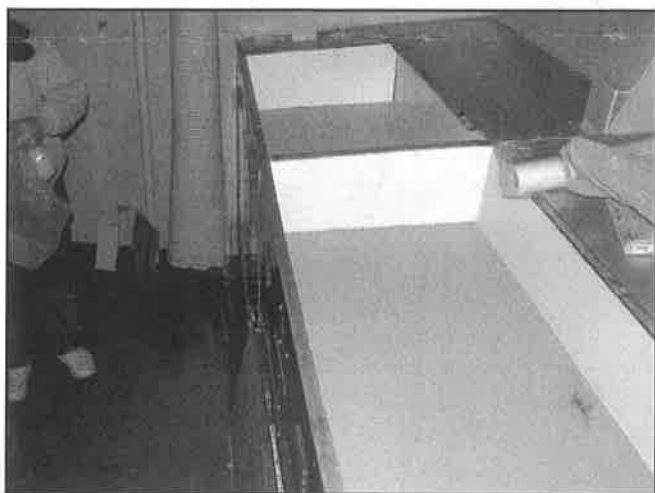


Felt liner placed inside the display with a few items on it to see how it would look.

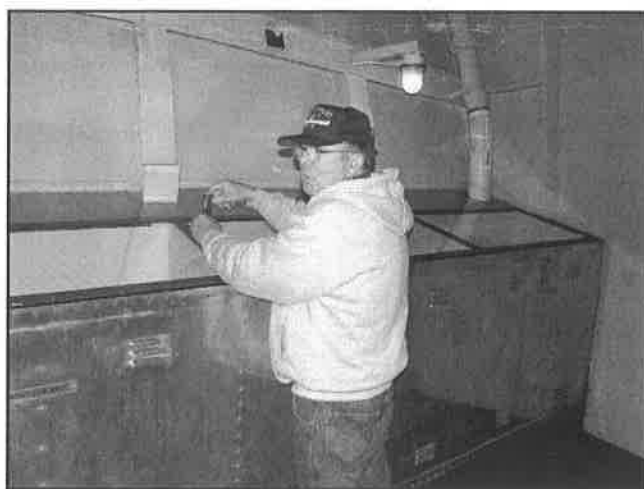
After painting the interior panels, sides and shelves white, the next step was to pick out the color for and install the felt fabric that would line the bottom shelf.

We looked at a few colors, (blue, gold and gray) before deciding on gray.

Felt liner installed in all 3 sections of display.



Roland securing frame to locker display.



We are now at the point where we have to decide the best way to illuminate the display.

# Special Projects on the Battleship.

## Women In The Military

We are taking on another project for the Battleship, "Women Protecting US." This exhibit will be in the compartment just forward of our exhibit. It has been in the works for a while, but now things are moving along.

YAGR'S had a work weekend September 15, 16 and 17, 2006 with Don Batty (AGR-9), Roland Cote (AGR-10), John Hemminger (AGR-2), Henry MacKay (AGR-12) and Harry Miller (AGR-11) (YR-65) onboard.

The first task we tackled was cutting off all brackets and deck fittings that would impede the visitors while in the compartment. It was deja vu (just like the work we did when we started our exhibit) with all the grinding of welds flush with the deck, the grit and grime and the sore backs from all the bending over.



John (left) and Roland (below) grinding welds flush with the deck. Both are very proficient as they had plenty of practice from working on the YAGR'S exhibit.



Don (below) removing brackets from stanchions.



Henry (above) cutting brackets off the overhead.

## 1957 Ship Commissionings

In 1957 four radar picket ships were commissioned. The ships listed by date of commissioning were:

|                   |                        |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| January 16, 1957  | USS Investigator AGR-9 |
| February 6, 1957  | USS Outpost AGR-10     |
| February 20, 1957 | USS Protector AGR-11   |
| March 5, 1957     | USS Vigil AGR-12       |



### U.S.S. PROTECTOR (AGR-11)

#### *LIBERTY SHIP: SS WARREN P. MARKS*

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| BUILT BY:                | J. A. JONES CONSTRUCTION CO., PANAMA CITY, FL |
| KEEL LAID:               | 31 JANUARY 1945 (HULL #2346)                  |
| LAUNCHED:                | 15 MARCH 1945                                 |
| SPONSORED BY:            | MRS. E. M. HINSON                             |
| PLACED IN SERVICE:       | 27 MARCH 1945                                 |
| PLACED IN RESERVE FLEET: | 26 JUNE 1946                                  |

### *U.S.S. PROTECTOR (AGR-11)*

|                 |                    |   |
|-----------------|--------------------|---|
| CONVERTED:      | 01 AUGUST 1956     | AT CHARLESTON, SC   |
| COMMISSIONED:   | 20 FEBRUARY 1957   | AS YAGR-11 AT CHARLESTON, SC  |
| HOMEPORT:       | 14 JUNE 1957       | AT NEWPORT, RI  |
|                 | 01 OCTOBER 1957    | AT DAVISVILLE, RI   |
| RECLASSIFIED:   | 28 SEPTEMBER 1958  | AS AGR-11   |
| DECOMMISSIONED: | 28 JULY 1965       |   |
| DISPOSITION:    | JUNE, 2000         | MAIN ENGINE BEING REMOVED TO BE PLACED ON DISPLAY IN A MARITIME EXHIBIT IN NORFOLK, VA. |
| SCRAPPED:       | 10 SEPTEMBER, 2004 | SOLD TO ALL STAR METALS OF BROWNSVILLE, TX FOR \$569,300.00                             |

ector, as a unit of RADRON TWO, could detect, track and report enemy aircraft at great distances, supplementing land-based radar stations. She could also control high-speed interceptor aircraft in case of attack.

# YAGR'S 12th Annual Reunion

**Please return As Soon As Possible, But No Later Than April 20, 2007.**

**Exceptions are pre-reunion tours which are due by April 1, 2007.**

This information will be used for your name tag. Use the name you want printed on your name tag

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF SPOUSE/GUEST \_\_\_\_\_

SHIP SERVED ON \_\_\_\_\_ DATE ON BOARD \_\_\_\_\_ RATE \_\_\_\_\_

SHIP SERVED ON \_\_\_\_\_ DATE ON BOARD \_\_\_\_\_ RATE \_\_\_\_\_

| Reunion Registration                    |                 |                       |                  | Please Print |           |
|---|-----------------|-----------------------|------------------|--------------|-----------|
| Washington, DC                          |                 | May 31 - June 2, 2007 |                  |              |           |
|   | Cost per person | X                     | Number of People | =            | Sub Total |
| <i>EXAMPLE</i>                          | \$119.00        | X                     | 2                | =            | \$238.00  |
| Dues paying members, spouses/guests     | \$119.00        | X                     |                  | =            | \$        |
| Non dues paying members, spouses/guests | \$134.00        | X                     |                  | =            | \$        |
| Optional Tours                          |                 |                       |                  | Please Print |           |
| <b>Dedication YAGR'S Plaque</b>         |                 |                       |                  |              |           |
| Tuesday May 29, 2007                    |                 |                       |                  |              |           |
| 9:45 to 3:45                            |                 |                       |                  |              |           |
| Names of People going on tour           |                 |                       |                  |              |           |
|   | \$20.00         | X                     | 1                | =            | \$        |
|   | \$20.00         | X                     | 1                | =            | \$        |
|   | \$20.00         | X                     | 1                | =            | \$        |
| <b>Pre Reunion Tour</b>                 |                 |                       |                  |              |           |
| Annapolis, MD                           |                 |                       |                  |              |           |
| Wednesday May 30, 2007                  |                 |                       |                  |              |           |
| 8:30 AM to 4:15 PM                      |                 |                       |                  |              |           |
| Names of people going on tour           |                 |                       |                  |              |           |
|   | \$65.00         | X                     | 1                | =            | \$        |
|   | \$65.00         | X                     | 1                | =            | \$        |
|   | \$65.00         | X                     | 1                | =            | \$        |
| Reunion Shirts                          |                 |                       |                  |              |           |
| \$18.00 each                            | Small           | Medium                | Large            | X LARGE      |           |
| Number of each, times \$18.00           |                 |                       |                  |              | =\$       |
| \$20.00 each                            |                 |                       |                  | XX- Large    |           |
| Number of each, times \$20.00           |                 |                       |                  |              | =\$       |
|   |                 |                       |                  | <b>Total</b> | <b>\$</b> |